

Serial Number 10/751,420

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Objections to Specification

The objections to the specification have been addressed by adopting each of the suggestions made by the Examiner in item 1 on page 2 of the Official Action.

2. Rejection of Claims 10, 12, and 14 Under 35 USC §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,990,896 (Gray)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Gray patent does not disclose or suggest an indicator light monitor, as presently claimed, that not only monitors on/off status of indicator lights, but also color, brightness, and/or flashing and illumination patterns (as original disclosed in lines 14-23 on page 10).

In particular, whereas the device of Gray is only capable of monitoring the on/off status of an indicator light, the claimed device is capable of monitoring at least one of a variety of additional indicator light parameters. As a result, the claimed invention can be used with a far greater range of machinery, including ones having indicator lights that change color and/or brightness to indicate different machine conditions, and ones that flash or otherwise change an illumination pattern. Gray does not consider the possibility of different types of status lights, even though such lights clearly existed at the time the Gray patent was filed, and therefore the Gray patent does not anticipate the claimed invention and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10, 12, and 14 under 35 USC §102(b) is respectfully requested.

3. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 21 Under 35 USC §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,990,896 (Gray) and 5,844,808 (Konsmo)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Konsmo patent, like the Gray patent does not disclose or suggest an indicator light monitor that monitors the color, brightness, and/or flashing and illumination patterns of indicator lights, as presently claimed.

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Instead, Konsmo discloses sensors hardwired to vending machines, to report the status of the machines. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that Gray and Konsmo patents could not have suggested the claimed invention to the ordinary artisan, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 21 under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested.

4. Rejection of Claims 4-6 and 17 Under 35 USC §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,990,896 (Gray), 5,844,808 (Konsmo), and 6,631,247 (Motoyama)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Motoyama patent, like the Gray and Konsmo patents, does not disclose or suggest an indicator light monitor that monitors the color, brightness, and/or flashing and illumination patterns of indicator lights, as presently claimed. Instead, the Motoyama patent discloses sending of status messages between machines using e-mail. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the Gray, Konsmo, and Motoyama patents, whether considered individually or in any reasonable combination, could not have suggested the claimed invention to the ordinary artisan, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-6 and 17 under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested.

5. Rejection of Claims 8 and 20 Under 35 USC §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,990,896 (Gray), 5,844,808 (Konsmo), and 4,774,494 (Extance), and Rejection of Claim 13 Under 35 USC §103(a) in view of the Gray and Extance Patents

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Extance patent, like the Gray and Konsmo patents, does not disclose or suggest an indicator light monitor that monitors the color, brightness, and/or flashing and illumination patterns of indicator lights, as presently claimed. Instead, the Extance patent discloses a colored position encoder. This has nothing to do with monitoring parameters of machine indicator lights, or with the systems of Gray and Konsmo, and as a result, it is respectfully submitted that the Gray, Konsmo, and Extance patents, whether considered individually or in any reasonable combination, could not have suggested the claimed invention to the ordinary artisan, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-6 and 17 under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested.

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6. Rejection of Claims 22, 23, 26 Under 35 USC §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,654,673 (Ferguson) and 4,990,896 (Gray)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Ferguson patent, like the Gray patent, does not disclose or suggest indicator light monitoring software that includes means for retrieving definitions from an indicator light status database, as presently claimed. The Gray patent does not disclose any sort of database, while the Ferguson patent is directed to a monitoring system that reads diagnostics sent by the machine, and not indicator light statuses. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Ferguson and Gray patents, whether considered individually or in any reasonable combination, could not have suggested the claimed invention to the ordinary artisan, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22, 23, and 26 under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested.

7. Rejection of Claims 24 Under 35 USC §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,654,673 (Ferguson), 4,990,896 (Gray), and 6,172,432 (Schnackenberg)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Schnackenberg patent, like the Ferguson and Gray patents, does not disclose or suggest indicator light monitoring software including means for retrieving definitions from an indicator light status database, as claimed. The Schnackenberg patent is directed to automatic transfer switch, and not to any kind of monitoring system, much less one that monitors indicator light statuses. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Ferguson, Gray, and Schnackenberg patents, whether considered individually or in any reasonable combination, could not have suggested the claimed invention to the ordinary artisan, and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 24 under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

